

## Missouri Citizen Review Panels' Annual Reports

### **Task Force on Children's Justice (CJA) – 2006 Citizen Review Panel Recommendations:**

#### Recommendation #1: CD to achieve National Accreditation

The CD's achievement of Accreditation continues to be a top priority of the Task Force. The recommendation was made to include in this year's annual report/ grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that the Task Force recommends the Department aggressively pursue funding from the Legislature in 2007 to complete accreditation.

*The Department of Social Services budget request for 2007 does include additional funding support for accreditation efforts. The budget is pending approval by the Legislature. The FFY07 grant request/three year report will include this recommendation.*

*The CD continues to make successful progress towards achieving accreditation.*

#### Recommendation #2: Educate key legislative decision makers on positive outcomes of CPS.

and

#### Recommendation #3: Make presentations to develop ongoing dialogue with the legislature and budget committees on need for adequate funding of core services.

*A request was made by the Governor for the Task Force to review progress made on HB1453 requirements, with recommendations due by September 2007. This will require an additional time commitment beyond the quarterly meetings. The Task Force is currently in the early planning stages of this project. This task will be the priority focus for the Task Force for most of 2007.*

*The Task Force is currently developing a plan with the University of Missouri School of Journalism on developing ongoing dialogue strategies with key stakeholders, including Legislators.*

#### Recommendation #4: Develop collaboration with higher education institutions for innovative projects and funding.

and

#### Recommendation #5: Develop public relations strategy (in partner with universities, public, corporations to create media campaign).

and

#### Recommendation #6: Establish relationships and increase understanding and cooperation with media to disseminate positive outcomes.

*A University of Missouri School of Journalism student class has accepted the Task Force for a Jan-May 2007 project called the "Capstone Campaign" to research, create*

*and recommend a public relations strategy to the Task Force. A new Task Force slogan and logo will be created. Research of the student class with recommendations will be presented to the Task Force in May 07.*

*Local media activities occur regularly for community awareness of CD efforts. Examples are coverage or announcements regarding child abuse prevention month activities and promotion of adoption fairs (reference division web page at <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/canprevent.htm> .)*

**Recommendation #7:** Establish a procedure for communicating information on positive CPS outcomes including Task Force vision/priorities on an ongoing basis.

*The University of Missouri School of Journalism is currently assisting with the development of a public affairs strategy for communicating positive outcomes to key stakeholders, including Legislators and the general public.*

*Press releases were issued after accreditation was achieved at the Hotline and Central Office. On-going press releases are available as progress continues to be made.*

*Appointment of new Task Force members was announced with a media release.*

*Governor's request for Task Force to review progress made on HB1453 policy and practice was announced with a media release.*

*An Accreditation newsletter was created and is available on the CD Intranet.*

*Task Force (CJA) on Children's Justice website is routinely updated.*

**Recommendation #8:** Recommend CD to educate the Task Force on CD budget and sources with recommendations on increased and flexible funding.

*Budget updates were provided at quarterly Task Force meetings. CD budget recommended pay step increase for supervisors, currently in Legislation.*

**Recommendation #9:** Review the outcomes of CD's quality assurance program and make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of services.

*CD QA presentation - Task Force members were invited to participate.*

*Aug2005 CD Signs of Progress report provided to Task Force members.*

*Contracted Case Management presentation was provided during a Task Force meeting. Child Welfare measure website provided (CFSR and pip progress) to the Task Force members.*

*Governor's Quarterly Goals Report for CD – handout provided.*

*Discussion of necessity of referrals with request made for Task Force review and recommendations.*

*CD policies are now on internet for public review.*

*Other presentations were provided at quarterly meetings, including:*

- *Accreditation*
- *State Auditor reports*
- *CFR Review and Findings*
- *PIP proposed recommendations*
- *CD and HB1453*

***State Child Fatality Review Panel – 2006 Citizen Review Panel Recommendations:***

The Panel continues to recommend prevention efforts related to child deaths due to co-sleeping and rollovers, and suicide prevention.

*The CD continues to promote safe-sleep with the use of brochures.*

Additionally, Pursuant to 210.195, RSMo., the State Child Fatality Review Panel reviewed SIDS related child deaths, as reported by local fatality panels, throughout the state. It has come to the State Panel's attention that Jackson County reported 21 SIDS related deaths, which is significantly higher than other metropolitan areas, such as St. Louis County reporting two (2) and St. Louis City reporting one (1).

It is the recommendation of the State Child Fatality Review Panel to have STAT conduct a thorough case review of these deaths which were deemed to be SIDS related in the Jackson County area. Additionally, the State Panel would like to encourage STAT to send letter to all Medical Examiners and Coroners recommending they follow the Center for Disease Control "Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation (SUIDI)" guidelines for conducting such investigations.

*The CD Practice Development Unit is in the process of meeting with the State Technical Assistance Team to develop prevention strategies based on these recommendations.*

As a result of the reviews of individual child fatality cases, local Child Fatality Review Panels made specific recommendations for prevention during 2006. Some of these included:

Supervision:

- Swimming:
  - Post more "No Swimming" signs by dangerous rivers
- Around Cars:
  - Educate children on street crossing safety
  - Educate children on safety related to vehicles, in particular, car trunks

Physical Abuse/Trauma (includes CA/N):

- Educate public as well as parents on how to handle challenging child behaviors

#### Guns/Weapons:

- School Board should be approached about the possibility of adding gun safety to their curriculums
- News release to be done following child death, to remind public about importance of gun safety

#### Suicide:

- Teachers, professionals and caretakers should be proactive with children who are bullied at school

#### ATV Accidents:

- Schools should include ATV safety education in school papers

#### Medical Cause/Natural:

- Parent education on asthma (signs to watch for, have inhaler at all times)

#### Co-Sleeping/Inappropriate Sleep Arrangements/ SIDS:

- Education at women's shelters on safe sleep and discourage co-sleeping in shelters
- Educational activities about safe sleep at the local hospitals for expecting parents, and parents of newborns
- Provide information on Back to Sleep to daycare providers

*The Children's Division Practice Development Unit is in the process of meeting with the State Technical Assistance Team to develop prevention strategies based on these recommendations.*

STAT State Child Fatality Annual Report may be accessed at <http://www.dss.mo.gov/re/cfrar.htm>

#### ***Child Abuse/Neglect Review Board – 2006 Citizen Review Panel Recommendations:***

It is the ongoing recommendation of the Board that CD staff should continue to improve their investigative/documentation skills to meet POE (Preponderance of the Evidence) criteria.

*CD is continuing to develop a training curriculum with the assistance of Division of Legal Services on this issue.*

Missouri has utilized the Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force in an advisory capacity to the Division on issues relating to child abuse prevention and treatment. The CJA Task Force is comprised of representatives across the state from the areas of law enforcement, health, mental health, judiciary, education, community services, child advocacy, child welfare, residential services, and the state legislature. The CJA Task

Force assisted the Division in establishing three Citizen Review Panels across Missouri. In an effort to avoid creating unnecessary duplication but to have broad involvement of community members, who represent a variety of disciplines as well as geographic communities, three existing panels are utilized: CJA Task Force, Child Fatality Review Panel, and CA/N Review Boards. Each panel meets at least quarterly and develops annual reports, which are made available to the public. The panels provide feedback and recommendations to the Division on their assessment of the status of children and families. These panels have expressed satisfaction with the Division's response to their recommendations.

The Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report may be accessed at

<http://www.dss.mo.gov/re/canar.htm>